

## Traffic Safety News and Facts for Employers September 19, 2005

### Michigan News

#### **You Drink & Drive. You Lose.**

More than 1,800 arrested for drunk driving in Michigan during end-of-summer crackdown. For complete more details..... [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/0480\\_136919\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/0480_136919_7.pdf)

#### **Autoliv Launches New Safety Systems**

Safety systems supplier, Autoliv has three new systems on production vehicles including active pedestrian protection, head-protector airbags for convertibles and night vision. For more information visit [www.autoliv.com](http://www.autoliv.com)

### NETS Feature

#### **Keep Your Employees Ready, Set, and Focused**

A new study in the UK has found that company car drivers are among the most dangerous motorists on the road. The study was funded by the Department for Transport and carried out by the University of Nottingham's school of psychology. Researchers concluded that overall, the drivers of company vehicles were most often to blame for crashes. More.....

[http://www.trafficsafety.org/newsletter/focused\\_091505feat.asp](http://www.trafficsafety.org/newsletter/focused_091505feat.asp)

### Latest Traffic Safety News

#### **Tennessee Launches 'Move-Over' Educational Campaign**

State transportation officials in Tennessee are joining forces with law enforcement, a trucking company, and AAA to get the word out about the state's move-over law. The state is kicking off an educational campaign reminding motorists that anytime they see lights on an emergency vehicle on the side of the highway, they need to move over one lane or slow down. The events will also include an unveiling of a full-sized sample of the new move-over highway sign. Read the full article at <http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050902/NEWS01/509020430/1006/NEWS>

#### **Texas DOT Launches 'Kid Pages' Website**

On its new 'kid pages' website, the Texas Department of Transportation has made learning about traffic safety fun. The site includes coloring and activity books, as well as lesson plans. The materials can be used by teachers, parents, and students. Visitors are encouraged to print materials directly from the website at <http://www.dot.state.tx.us/kidsonly/splashpg/splashpg.htm>

#### **Toyota: New Technology Keeps Drivers On The Road**

Toyota has developed a safety technology that it says will keep the driver's eyes on the road. The new system uses a camera near the steering wheel to detect when the driver stops looking straight ahead. It flashes a light on the dashboard display and beeps when the eyes start to wander. If the driver fails to respond, the brakes will kick in. Read the release at <http://www.toyota.co.jp/en/news/05/0906.html>

### **Websites Target Travelers With Handheld Communication Devices**

Thanks to a growing number of text-only websites, managing travel on the go is becoming easier. These websites, offered by a growing number of companies including Delta Air Lines, American Airlines, and Marriott Hotels, allow travelers to access information from handheld wireless devices such as smart cell phones and PDAs. The sites provide information that would be most useful to someone in transit—schedules, departure gates, hotel addresses, and directions. Read the full article at [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-05-travel-hand-helds\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-05-travel-hand-helds_x.htm)

### **School Transportation Services Find GPS Offers Substantial Benefits**

School transportation services are finding that an investment in global positioning systems (GPS) means more than just tracking school buses. While locating buses in an emergency is of paramount concern, operations are using GPS systems to increase efficiency, improve safety, and enforce department protocol. Read the full article at [http://www.schoolbusfleet.com/t\\_inside.cfm?action=art\\_det&sec\\_id=2&storyID=1095](http://www.schoolbusfleet.com/t_inside.cfm?action=art_det&sec_id=2&storyID=1095)

### **Florida Foundation Aims To Improve Highway Safety**

A new traffic safety foundation in Florida has opened its doors and hopes to make the state's roadways the safest in the world. The Dori Slosberg Foundation is named after state representative Irv Slosberg's 14-year-old daughter who died in a car crash nine years ago. The Foundation's first project is a short film entitled "Dori's Song" that encourages teens to wear seat belts. Meanwhile Slosberg's Staying Alive on 95 initiative, a periodic two-day enforcement campaign that aims to curtail speed and aggressive driving on the interstate, will expand in January to include additional motorcycle officers and special squads.

### **News from USDOT**

#### **DOT, Automakers Partner To Create 'Real' Information Superhighway**

The Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) estimates that 5.7 billion gallons of fuel are wasted and 3.5 billion productivity hours are lost from traffic congestion at a cost of \$69.5 billion. In response to these soaring numbers, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is working with state DOTs and the auto industry to create the "next generation" transportation network. Vehicle Infrastructure Integration (VII) aims to improve mobility, the environment, and productivity, while at the same time saving lives. Under the system, cars, public-transit vehicles and trucks will be equipped with sophisticated sensing devices and record much of what they encounter. The data will then be relayed to DOT information processing centers and other drivers in the area. Read the full article at <http://www.geoplace.com/uploads/FeatureArticle/0509trn.asp>

### **Work-Life:**

#### **Older SUVs Unsafe Choice For Teen Drivers**

Despite the belief by many parents that older, larger SUVs are safe and affordable transportation for teen drivers, according to one safety advocate, older SUVs are actually more likely to crash. Sandy Stevens of Stevens Advanced Driver Training calls the worst of SUVs, five to 10 year old boxes on ladder frames. Stevens points out that older SUVs are top-heavy, easy to roll, and have weak roofs. On the contrary, newer SUVs are built lower with better suspensions and frames, as well as improved safety features. Read the full article at [http://www.boston.com/cars/articles/2005/08/28/a\\_bad\\_mix\\_teens\\_and\\_older\\_suvs/](http://www.boston.com/cars/articles/2005/08/28/a_bad_mix_teens_and_older_suvs/)

### **AARP Fact Sheet Addresses Mobility Options For Older Drivers**

The AARP Public Policy Institute has released a fact sheet that addresses the importance of transportation alternatives for older persons; the use of private vehicles by older persons; the physical, financial, and community design barriers to independent mobility, and strategies for extending the years of independent mobility. View the fact sheet at

[http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/il/fs44r\\_com\\_mobility.pdf](http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/il/fs44r_com_mobility.pdf)

### **International Traffic Safety News:**

#### **Text Messaging Teens Draw Crowds To Crash Scenes**

Police in Australia believe young drivers are using their mobile phones to text their friends details of automobile crashes, attracting large crowds of curious onlookers at crash scenes. The onlookers often cause traffic congestion and sometime park roadside and cause further distraction at the crash scene. Police are encouraging people to drive carefully and move on from crashes. Read the full article at

<http://the.standard.net.au/articles/2005/09/07/1125772555226.html>

#### **UK, Industry Leaders To Improve Road Safety With New Radar System**

Cars in the UK will soon be fitted with radar to detect the position of other vehicles and pedestrians in an effort being rolled out by the UK government and industry leaders. The radar system would scan for potentially dangerous movements up to 150 meters away and automatically slow the car down or stop in emergencies. Ultimately, the technology will be able to take control of vehicles entering and leaving major road networks and even allow automated hands-free convoys when driving on highways. The sensor technology is expected to be launched by the end of the decade. Read the full article at

[http://motortrend.com/features/news/112\\_news32/index1.html](http://motortrend.com/features/news/112_news32/index1.html)

#### **UK Study: Company Car Drivers Are Most Dangerous**

A new study in the UK has found that company car drivers are among the most dangerous motorists on the road. The study was funded by the Department for Transport and carried out by the University of Nottingham's school of psychology. Researchers concluded that overall the drivers of company vehicles were most often to blame for crashes. According to the report, company car drivers are more likely to have crashes on slippery roadways, while under the influence of alcohol or while speeding. View the full study at

[http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft\\_rdsafety/documents/page/dft\\_rdsafety\\_039943.pdf](http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_rdsafety/documents/page/dft_rdsafety_039943.pdf)

#### **UK Experts Warn Fleet Execs To Check Relatives' Licenses**

Many companies in the UK allow family members to drive company cars, however, many do not extend their license checks to include them. Now, experts are warning that fleet executives should ensure that they are checking the driving licenses of their employees' or risk breaking the law. When companies neglect these checks, they are neglecting their duty of care responsibilities and could face financial implications.

#### **UK Report Explores Adolescent Roadway Safety Behavior In Group Setting**

The UK's Transportation Research Laboratory has released a report examining the potential difference in adolescent behavior and their attention to roadway safety based on when they are alone and when they are part of a group. For more information visit

[http://217.118.128.203/store/report\\_detail.asp?srid=2750&pid=211](http://217.118.128.203/store/report_detail.asp?srid=2750&pid=211)

**Report Examines The Impact Of Child Passenger Safety Seats**

The Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute has released a report examining the long-term health effects as a result of the greater use of child passenger safety seats. For more information visit [http://www.vti.se/templates/Report\\_\\_\\_\\_2797.aspx?reportid=4688](http://www.vti.se/templates/Report____2797.aspx?reportid=4688)